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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,646	10/31/2003	Raymond L. Watrous	ZMC-103US	4445
23122	7590	10/10/2007		
RATNERPRESTIA P O BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980			EXAMINER PATTON, AMANDA K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3762	
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			10/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,646

Applicant(s)

WATROUS, RAYMOND L.

Examiner

Amanda Patton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2007 (Restriction).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11 and 26-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/20/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1-11 and 26-29 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 24 September 2007. Currently claims 12-20 and 30 are pending in this application.

Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings are handwritten and difficult to understand. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 5 contains the phrase "by the by the". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 12-13, 15-17, 19, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by
Bredesen et al. (US Pat. 5,213,108, as cited by Applicant).

Regarding **claims 12 and 30**, Bredesen teaches system comprising (Figure 1; Col. 4, line 40 - Col. 3, line 40): a cardiac acoustic sensor (e.g. transducer 124) for capturing a waveform of a heart sound signal; a heart sound analysis device (e.g. display module 130) for receiving and analyzing the heart sound signals; and a display device (e.g. LCD graphic display 138) including a GUI to guide a user through a predetermined protocol (e.g. Col. 12, lines 50-60).

Regarding **claim 13**, Bredesen additionally teaches a wire (e.g. electrically conductive cord 128) for transmitting heart sound signals from the cardiac acoustic sensor (e.g. transducer 124) to the heart sound analysis device (e.g. display module 130).

Regarding **claim 15**, Bredesen additionally teaches an earpiece (e.g. as shown in Figure 1) and a device in which the GUI includes a re-record option to allow a user to record a substitute waveform (e.g. Col. 12, line 50 - Col. 13, line 2).

Regarding **claim 16**, Bredesen additionally teaches a heart sound analysis device (e.g. display module 130) including special purpose circuitry (e.g. as shown in Figures 3a-3i).

Regarding **claim 17**, Bredesen additionally teaches a GUI that includes a visual representation of the anterior thorax (e.g. sternum diagram 132) and a plurality of positional markers to pinpoint desired placements of the cardiac acoustic sensor.

Regarding **claim 19**, Bredesen additionally teaches a cardiac acoustic sensor that is an electronic stethoscope.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bredesen. Bredesen discloses the claimed invention including a GUI including a menu having a plurality of operating languages for selecting an operating language of the auscultatory diagnostic decision support system (Col. 15, lines 40-45) except the express mention of a pull-down menu. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Bredesen with a pull-down menu since it was well known in the art that pull-down menus are used to provide the predictable results of easy organization of menu items.

Claims 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bredesen in view of Nova et al. (US Pat. 6,334,070). Bredesen discloses the claimed invention except at a pre-recorded voice track wherein the voice track is transmitted to a speaker or an earpiece as a series of audio prompts to guide the user through a predetermined protocol. Nova teaches that it is known in the art to use a series of aural instructions to guide a user through a predetermined protocol in an external medical device (e.g. Abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Bredesen with the pre-recorded audio protocol of Nova, since such a modification would provide audio signals

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for guiding a user through a predetermined protocol for providing the predictable results of an auscultatory protocol that did not require the user to look at the display of the device.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda Patton whose telephone number is (571) 270-1912. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/AKP/
AKP
9/28/2007

GEORGE R. EVANISKO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

9/29/7